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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6617

BILL NUMBER: HB 1387

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 28, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Local Veterans' Service Officers.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Speedy

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

- (1) Provides that county and city service officers must be certified by the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA).
- (2) Requires the Veterans' Affairs Commission to:
 - (A) Establish standards for certification of county and city service officers (CVSO) and
 - (B) Establish and administer a written examination for renewal of the certification of county and city service officers.
- (3) Requires a county or city service officer to obtain certification from the IDVA within 30 days after becoming employed as a service officer.
- (4) Requires a county or city service officer, within one year after becoming employed as a service officer, to attend a course and pass a written examination as a condition of the renewal of the service officer's certification.
- (5) Provides that a service officer who fails to be certified or whose certification is not renewed is ineligible for employment as a county or city service officer.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) reports they currently certify county and city veteran service officers with a certification test as required under 915 IAC 1-1-2. Additionally, by the decision of the IDVA Director, this certification test is annually administered to all CVSOs as a condition of employment as a CVSO. Consequently, requiring the IDVA to provide a certification

process for county and city veteran service officers is expected to have no new impact on the IDVA.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under the bill, a current county and city veteran service officer who does not receive certification by the IDVA would be ineligible to be employed as a service officer. Currently, under 915 IAC 1-1-2, there is no mention of employment disqualification for veteran service officers if they do not pass an annual certification examination offered by the IDVA.

County and city veteran service officer salaries are paid from local funds. To the extent a county or city veteran service officer does not obtain certification from the IDVA, county or city expenditures will decrease. Decreases in county and city expenditures will depend on the duration a veteran service officer is unable to attain certification from the IDVA or until a replacement certified veteran service officer can be employed. Actual decreases are unknown.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: IDVA.

Local Agencies Affected: Cities and counties.

Information Sources: Tom Applegate, IDVA.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.